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- (71) Applicant: ONUX MEDICAL, INC. [US/US]; 5 Merrill Drive, Hampton, NH 03842 (US).
- (72) Inventor: FIELD, Frederic, P.; 5 Woodland Road, North Hampton, NH 03862 (US).
- (74) Agent: PANDISCIO, Mark, J.; Pandiscio & Pandiscio, 470 Totten Pond Road, Waltham, MA 02451-1914 (US).
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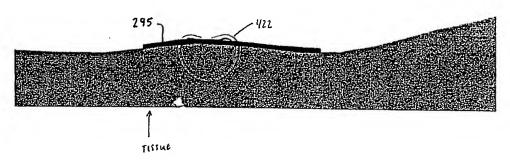
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(54) Title: SURGICAL SUTURING INSTRUMENT AND METHOD OF USE



(57) Abstract: A device is disclosed for introducing a flexible elongated element (442) through at least two portions of a subject. The device includes a proximal end (212) and a distal end (210), and an advancement unit for longitudinally advancing the flexible elongated element. The device also includes a first curved die for imparting a looping configuration to the flexible elongated element and a second curved die for receiving the flexible elongated element at the distal end of the device. In a further feature of the invention, a cutting mechanism (206) is provided.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(7) :A61B 17/00 US CL : 606/144, 103, 139			
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC			
B. FIELDS SEARCHED			
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)			
U.S. : 606/144, 103, 139, 145, 146, 147, 151, 142, 170, 167, 205, 206, 207, 208; 112/169, 80.03			
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched			
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)			
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where ap	propriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,499,990 A (SCHULKEN et al) 19 March 19%, See entire document.		1-37
A	US 5,766,186 A (FARAZ et al) 16 June 1998, See entire document.		1-37
A	US 5,759,188 A (YOON) 02 June 1998, See entire document.		
A	US 5,417,700 A (EGAN) 23 May 1995, See entire document.		1-37
A	US 5,308,353 A (BEURRIER) 03 May 1994, See entire document.		1-37
A	US 4,453,661 A (GENYK et al) 12 June 1984, See entire document.		1-37
<u>}</u>			
Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.			
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